Retrenchment of ELR workmen

2546. SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board's orders dated the Ist June, 1984 stipulated that casual labourers employed on projects should be made regular on completion of 360 days of continuous employment;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for retrenchment of about 100 ELR workmen, having 6 years continuous service in the Nagercoil-Tirunelveli Line, Southern Railway from the 15th March, 1984 despite stay orders obtained by them from the Kerala High Court; and

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to reinstate these workers?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) These orders provide that Project casual labour should be treated as temporary on completion of 360 days of continuous employment. This decision is to be implemented in the manner specified in the relevant orders. The said orders do not, however, provide for automatic absorption of project casual labour in regular employment.

(b) Due to completion of works in Tirunelveli-Nagercoil Sections, these casual labour were retrenched.

(c) The retrenched labourers will be considered in their turn for re-engagement alongwith other retrenched labourers as and when works come up in future, based on the period of their employment as casual labour.

Central Railway Electrification Organisation, Nagpur

2547. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 341 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st March, 1984 and state:

(a) what are the functions of the Central Railway Electrification Organsation, Nagpur vis-a-vis Central Railway Electrification Headquarters, Allahabad and in what way the work handled by them differs from each other; and

(b) whether these two Organisations are functionally independent of each other; if not, what is the justification for setting up two similar Organisations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) The Central Organisation for Railway Electrification performs the function of a headquarter organisation for different electrification projects which are in progress at different places. The work load of this organisation is presently distributed between the offices at Allahabad and at Nagpur. The work done by two offices is complementary in nature. Presently, finalisation of project reports, works tenders, certain aspects of accounting are looked after by Allahabad Office, while day to day coordination, planning monitoring of progress of works, procurement of materials and financial management is being handled by the Nagpur Office.

(b) No, Sir. The working of the two offices is complementary to each other and they function as a single unit. They are at two different places for administrative convenience.

Selection examination in South Eastern Railway

2548. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the dates on which examination was conducted for selection of chief estimators, head estimators and senior draftsmen and senior estimators in the South-Eastern Railway;

(b) what are the reasons that the examinations for such selections are not being held regularly and staff are allowed to continue on *ad-hoc* promotions for years together; and

(c) by when such examination are expected to be held with a view to filling up the posts on regular basis?